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Identical letters dated 8 May 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following information:

Further to our previous letters addressed to you, the most recent of which was the letter of 5 May 2013 (S/2013/267), I should like to draw your attention to Israel's repeated aggressions, which constitute a violation on its part of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement. Israel further violates that Agreement by providing medical services to armed terrorists in the area and then returning them to do battle in Syria. Such conduct goes beyond the provision of humanitarian assistance to the wounded and serves to support the aggression against Syria. It is also contrary to the exclusion of military forces from that area. Moreover, the Israeli aggressions violate the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2, paragraph 4, which provides that the Members of the United Nations shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, and constitute interference in Syria's internal affairs.

Israel's aggressions and its provision of logistical support to the armed terrorist groups operating in the area of separation, so that they can continue to commit acts of terrorism, are in violation of the Agreement on Disengagement and international law. They encourage the terrorist groups to continue committing their criminal acts, which threaten the lives of Syrian civilians, the safety of the personnel of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the state of calm in the area of separation. Israel's actions are also helping to raise tensions in the region because it is providing direct support to those armed terrorist groups, the presence of which in the area of separation has created an emerging reality that has undermined the calm that has prevailed in that area over the past years. The grave concerns regarding the threat presented by the actions of the armed terrorist groups were borne out when, on 6 March 2013, a group belonging to the so-called Yarmuk Martyrs Brigade, which is linked to Al-Qaida, came from Jordanian territory and abducted 21 members of UNDOF and then took them to Jordanian territory, from where they later released them. A similar incident occurred on Tuesday, 7 May 2013, when that same armed terrorist group again infiltrated from Jordan and abducted four members of the Force near same location where the first incident occurred in March 2013.

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This situation requires the Security Council to fulfil its responsibility to maintain international peace and security in the area of separation by compelling Israel to cease its aggression, honour its obligations under the Agreement on Disengagement and refrain from providing any assistance to the armed terrorist groups.

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms its right to target any site or Israeli means of transportation that violates the Agreement on Disengagement by providing assistance to those terrorist in that area. Syria draws the Security Council's attention to these facts and expects that the Council will take the action required to put an end to this aberrant and extraordinary situation in the area of separation, that is to say, the actions of the armed terrorist groups that are threatening Syria's territorial integrity and the lives of its nationals as well as the safety of UNDOF personnel, towards whom the Syrian Government assiduously strives to fulfil completely its obligation of ensuring their security and safety.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations